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LEGISLATION TO SUPPRESS TRUTH

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: When Professor Morgan stated in his "Critique of Evolution" that the old conflict between science and theology over the question of evolution vs. special creation was ended and that it was unlikely it would ever again be revived, he was evidently not informed of a condition prevalent throughout most of our southern and western states. The newspapers report a bill before the Kentucky legislature making the teaching of evolution an offence punishable by a fine of \$500 to \$1,000. This action is more than a possibility elsewhere, since the Oklahoma State Baptist Association recently passed a resolution condemning evolution, and appointed a committee to eradicate this "heresy" from their schools in this state. The Texas Southern Baptists in a convention at Dallas recently took the same action. A similar movement was inaugurated in December by a "Congress" of the Disciples of Christ, where in discussion bitter hostility was shown and a committee was appointed to investigate all the colleges under the auspices of that body with a view to withholding funds from any which may be found to "teach evolution." In both of these denominations, the religious periodicals are carrying pages of fulminations against evolution ("Darwinism"), often of the most antiquated and puerile matter, but calculated to arouse the frenzy of the uninformed who imagine their religious beliefs to be imperilled by this "damnable doctrine"! The secular press in this same region of the country has in several cases carried editorials commanding the action in Kentucky and urging like action elsewhere.

This is not a time when the scientific world should regard the situation as a joke, nor merely as a local manifestation. With a "silver-tongued" apostle, the recrudescence of the old conflict bids fair to take on the proportions of a general action. The Moody Biblical Institute of Chicago, it is reported, is sending thousands of Mr. Bryan's addresses through the mails in furtherance of this propaganda. When it is realized that 50 per cent. of our citizenship are known to have the intelligence of mere children the harm that these misguided reformers may do is beyond calculation.

X.

ECOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION ALONG
THE RED RIVER

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: On page 127 of the February 3, 1922 number of SCIENCE you published a news item which included extracts from a letter of the Attorney General of the United States justly commendatory of Professor Cowles "for his ecological investigations along the Red River for use in connection with a suit between the states of Oklahoma and Texas in the Supreme Court of the United States."

The reader might gather from this that the suit referred to was strictly a two-sided one between these two states and that the government of the United States (including the attorney general) were a disinterested, unpartisan referee in the matter. Such an impression the attorney general certainly did not mean to convey, for the United States is an intervener in the suit. When the evidence is made available to the scientific public it will have to be read with this in mind.

CARL HARTMAN

AUSTIN, TEXAS

ATOMIC NUCLEI

In my address printed in SCIENCE on March 3 last, the following corrections should be made:

1. In the last line of page 225, 3 \times 10⁻¹³ cm. should read 3 \times 10⁻¹² cm.
2. In the fifth line, column 1, of page 226, 3 \times 10⁻¹³ cm. should read 3 \times 10⁻¹² cm.
3. In the twenty-seventh line, column 1, page 226, 3 \times 10⁻¹² cm. should read 3 \times 10⁻¹³ cm.

These errors were made in the copy and inadvertently overlooked by me in the proof.

J. C. MCLENNAN

THE PHYSICAL LABORATORY,
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO,
MARCH 7, 1922

NOTES ON METEOROLOGY AND
CLIMATOLOGYNEW DISCUSSION OF TEMPERATURES IN
THE UNITED STATES

ORDINARILY, the dullest portion of a scientific paper is that in which tables and charts